

NOTE: The President's 190th news conference began at 2:49 p.m. at the Palacio Nacional de Queluz. The President met with Prime Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal in his capacity as President of the European Council and President Romano Prodi of the European Commission. A portion of Prime Minister Guterres' remarks were in Portuguese and were translated by an interpreter. In the news conference, the following people were referred to: Commissioner Christopher Patten of the European Commission; High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana of the European Council; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaime Gama of Portugal; and President Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia.

Statement on the Death of Governor Robert P. Casey

May 31, 2000

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of Governor Bob Casey. Over the many years I knew him, I came to admire his toughness, tenacity, and commitment to principle. Those are the qualities that helped the son of a mule tender in the coal mines of northeastern Pennsylvania lead a life of dedicated public service, culminating in two successful terms as Governor.

Throughout his career, Bob fought tirelessly for the people of Pennsylvania, never losing sight of the poor and their children. That devotion was reflected in his support of universal health care, tougher environmental laws, expanded educational opportunity, and strong labor protections.

As Governors, Bob and I worked together on many of these causes. And when we disagreed, I understood that his views were based on deep religious beliefs and a commitment to his convictions.

Hillary and I send our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Ellen, and the entire Casey family.

Statement on the Secretary of the Interior's Recommendation for the Creation of New National Monuments

May 31, 2000

I am pleased to receive Secretary Babbitt's recommendations today for the creation of new national monuments to protect unique Federal lands in Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.

As trustee of much of our Nation's natural endowment, the Federal Government must do its utmost to ensure lasting protection of our most precious lands. That is why I asked the Secretary to identify Federal lands most in need of additional protection and why I have exercised my authority under the Antiquities Act to grant such protection to some of our most cherished landscapes—from California's ancient sequoias to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Each of the areas recommended today represents an exceptional, irreplaceable piece of America's natural and cultural heritage. I will carefully consider the recommendations and hope to reach a decision on them in the near future.

United States-European Union Summit Statement on a New World Trade Organization Round

May 31, 2000

Since the last U.S.-EU Summit in December, we have worked together in Geneva to rebuild confidence in the WTO and the multilateral system, with particular reference to developing countries. With our trade partners, we have agreed to a short-term package on market access for the least developed countries, an implementation work program, and on the high priority to be accorded to effective delivery of technical assistance.

The U.S. and EU reaffirm their conviction that the early launch of an inclusive new Round of WTO trade negotiations would